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Message Text

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41
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 VO-01 SCA-01 INR-11 L-02 DRC-01

RSC-01 H-01 /039 W
---------- 116930
R 031325Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4272
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13215

STADIS//////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOR LAINGEN FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, IN, US
SUBJECT: BRAIN DRAIN

REF: NEW DELHI 12191

1. IN REGARD TO THE AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSAL TO YOU THAT WE TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BRAIN DRAIN OF DOCTORS, THE CONSULATES GENERAL, BOMBAY IN PARTICULAR, HAVE MADE SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK INTO.

2. WHAT ABOUT TIGHTENING UP ON THE EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES (ECFMG) EXAMINATION? POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE REQUIRING THAT ALL PERSONS TAKING THE ECFMG EXAMINATION IN THE US BE AMERICAN CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS (AND THUS EXCLUDING THOSE ON VISITORS VISAS). ALSO THE COUNCIL MIGHT REQUIRE THAT ANYONE TAKING THE ECFMG EXAMINATION OVERSEAS BE A CITIZEN OR PERMENT RESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE EXAMINATION IS GIVEN. AT THE PRESENT TIME THIS IS TRUE IN MANY
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NEARBY COUNTRIES, BUT NOT IN MALAYSIA WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF

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INDIANS GO, OR INDONESIA, THE NEXT NEAREST PLACE. FINALLY, A
STIFFENING OF THE EXAMINATION MIGHT ELIMINATE MANY CANDIDATES
FROM INDIA.

3. THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT THE INDIAN GOVERN-
MENT ISSUES "NO OBJECTION" CERTIFICATES TO INDIAN PHYSICIANS
SUBJECT TO THE TWO-YEAR FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT OF SEC-
TION 212(E) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT WHO ARE SEEK-
ING INS WAIVERS ALLOWING THEM TO ADJUST STATUS IN THE US OR
APPLY FOR IMMIGRATION VISAS ABROAD. SUCH CERTIFICATES ARE A
REQUIREMENT FOR ISSUANCE OF VISAS AND IF THE GOI IS ISSUING
THEM ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE--AND WE SUSPECT IT MAY BE--THE
GOI ITSELF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE BRAIN DRAIN.

4. WE SUGGEST YOU INQUIRE WHY INDIA IS NOT LISTED UNDER SKILLS
4400--GENERAL MEDICINE AND 4410--INTERNSHIP (ATTACHMENT TO
A-4771 OF JUNE 12, 1974). THE ABSENCE OF THESE INDIAN LISTINGS
MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR INDIAN DOCTORS TO AVOID THE REQUIREMENT
TO RETURN TO INDIA FOR TWO YEARS OF RESIDENCE FOLLOWING A PERIOD
IN THE US AS J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS ON MEDICAL PROGRAMS. UNLESS
THERE WAS AN ERROR IN PREPARING THE SKILLS LIST THIS MAY BE AN
IMPORTANT LOOPHOLE AS A LARGE PROPORTION OF EXCHANGE VISITOR
APPLICANTS IN INDIAN ARE GOING ON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS.

5. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE LEGISLATION ON THIS SUBJECT
WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS ALREADY PASSED THE SENATE?
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